



THEME 5 | *FUTURE 50 - commemoration, museum and research themes*

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Australian War Memorial is an important place for all Australians, where they can remember the service and sacrifice of those who have served in war and on operations. This is perhaps best expressed in the words of the Memorial's founder, Charles Bean: "Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made." Since opening in 1941, the Memorial has recognised, honoured and told the stories of our defence force personnel and their experiences in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The Memorial's ability to respectfully commemorate and display these stories is now at capacity; visitor numbers remain strong and modern conflicts are under-represented. There is no further gallery space to tell the stories of what is happening now and for the future. A significant redevelopment is required to improve the experience, education and understanding of our visitors by increasing gallery space and improving amenities.

The Memorial is developing a detailed proposal to submit to the Federal Government for funding for this project, and is also developing a Precinct Masterplan to create a vision that will guide the Memorial for the next 50 years.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Memorial is currently seeking feedback on a range of project themes in order to help shape the Government submission and the Precinct Masterplan. There are five key themes the Memorial is seeking feedback on.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY VISIT THE MEMORIAL IN THE 2060s?

The Precinct Masterplan provides an opportunity to envisage the next fifty years and create a vision to guide the development of future experiences for our veterans, their families and our visitors. What values are important to preserve as we develop a vision for the next fifty years at the Memorial?

MEMORIAL VISITORS

In the last five years more than four million people have visited the Memorial. This number comprises people of all ages, gender, ethnicity and geographic diversity (local, national and international).

How do you think visitors to the Memorial will change in the future?

There are many ways to commemorate and reflect at the Australian War Memorial





CHANGING THE WAY WE TELL OUR STORIES

With growing technology, we have opportunities to incorporate more digital displays alongside our current, traditional displays. This could be used to display near real-time military information and create virtual connections to community memorials all over Australia. *Would you like to hear the experiences of a First World War digger as told by his hologram? Would you like to gain greater understanding about the conflicts through augmented reality? Would you like your visit to begin online before you get to the Memorial or in the carpark? Would you like to extend your visit beyond leaving the physical Memorial through online engagement? What else would you like to experience in the Memorial in the future?*

COMMEMORATION

The Memorial also tells the stories of Australia's experience of war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations through a range of public programs and commemorative events including The Last Post Ceremony, and national ceremonies on Remembrance Day and the Anzac Day. Interest and attendance at these events continues to be high. *How do we support people to access transport to the events more easily? How do we better cater for these events into the future?*

RESEARCH ROLES

The archival function of the Memorial is maintained by the Research Centre. The collection maintained by the Research Centre documents Australian involvement in war and warlike operations. Additionally, these documents can provide information on the historical background, and the effects on Australian society, of the conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

The Research Centre's digitised historic documents and records can be searched online and the Memorial also houses a dedicated Reading Room where research assistance is provided and non-digitised materials can be accessed. *How would you want to access this information in the future?*

INTERPRETATION AND RESPECT

Above all else the Memorial is a place to commemorate and pay tribute to the men and women who have served Australia. There are dedicated commemorative spaces within the Memorial and commemorative activities that regularly take place. Our modern understanding of the long-term impacts of service on veterans also tells us that it is important to provide interpretive information as soon as possible. Enabling veterans to see their stories reflected in the Memorial can have powerful impacts on mental health and the ability to share their experiences. *Is there more that can be done within the Memorial to honour those who have served and their families?*

The Anzac Day Dawn Service continues to attract large numbers

HAVE YOUR SAY

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY VISIT THE MEMORIAL IN THE 2060s?

VISIT www.awm.gov.au/haveyoursay to learn more about this project and complete our online scrapbook with your ideas.

EMAIL your ideas to haveyoursay@awm.gov.au

VISIT one of our drop-in sessions to learn more about the project and share your ideas. Details are on the website.